Ere thou ſhalt loſe for me one drop of bloud.
Anth. I am a tainted Weather of the flocke,
Meeteſt for death, the weakeſt kinde of fruit
Drops earlieſt to the ground, and ſo let me;
You cannot better be imploy'd, *Baſſanio*,
Then to live ſtill and write mine Epitaph?

Enter Nerriſſa.

Duke. Came you from *Padua* from *Bellario*?
Ner. From both: my L. *Bellario* greets your Grace.
Baſſ. Why doſt thou whet thy knife ſo earneſtly?
Iew. To cut the forfeiture from that Bankrout there.
Grat. Not on thy ſoule: but on thy ſoule harſh Jew,
Thou mak'ſt thy knife keene: but no mettle can,
No, not the hangmans axe beare halfe the keenneſſe
Of thy ſharp envie: can no prayers pearce thee?
Iew. No, none that thou haſt wit enough to make.
Grat. O be thou damn'd, inexecrable dog,
And for thy life let juſtice be accuſd;
Thou almoſt mak'ſt me waver in my faith,
To hold opinion with *Pythagoras*,
That ſoules of Animals infuſe themſelves
Into the trunks of men: Thy curriſh ſpirit
Govern'd a Woolfe, who hang'd for humane ſlaughter,
Even from the gallowes did his fell ſoule fleet,
And whileſt thou layeſt in thy unhallowed damme;
Infuſd it ſelfe in thee: for thy deſires
Are woolviſh, bloudy, ſtarv'd, and ravenous.
Iew. Till thou canſt raile the ſeale from off my Bond,
Thou but offendſt thy lungs to ſpeake ſo loud:
Repaire thy wit good youth, or it will fall
To cureleſſe ruine. I ſtand for Law.
Duke. This letter from *Bellario* doth commend
A young and learned Doctor to our Court:
Where is he?
Ner. He attendeth here hard by,
To know your anſwer whether youle admit him.
Duke. With all my heart: ſome three or foure of you

Go give him curteous conduct to this
Meane time the Court ſhall heare *Bella*

Your Grace ſhall underſtand, that at
am very ſicke, but in the inſtant that yo
ving viſitation was with me a yong D
Balthaſar: I acquainted him with the
tween the *Iew* and *Anthonio* the Merch
books together, he is furniſhed with m
with his own learning, the greateſſe
commend, comes with him at my im
Graces requeſt in my ſtead. I beſeech y
no impediment to let him lack a rever
knew ſo young a body with ſo old a h
Gracious acceptance, whoſe tryall ſha
mendation.

Enter Portia for Baltha

Duke. You heare the learn'd *Bellari*
And here I take it is the Doctor come.
Give me your hand, come you from ol
Por. I did my Lord.
Duke. You are welcome, take your
Are you acquainted with the difference
That holds this preſent queſtion in the
Por. I am enformed throughly of t
Which is the Merchant here? and whi
Duke. *Anthonio*, and old *Shylocke*, b
Por. Is your name *Shylocke*?
Iew. *Shylocke* is my name.
Por. Of a ſtrange nature is the ſute
Yet in ſuch rule, that the *Venetian* Law
Cannot impugne you as you do proce
You ſtand within his danger, do you
Ant. I, ſo he ſayes.
Por. Do you confeſſe the Bond?
An. I do.
Por. Then muſt the Jew be merci
Shy. On what compulſion muſt I, t

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22298) LONDON, 1637 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k